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the independent student newspaper

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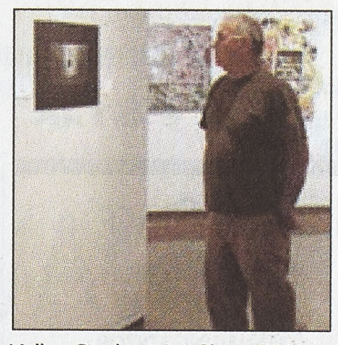

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lavalleystar.com | September 7, 2011 | Volume 75 Issue 1

NEW LOOK, SAME PROBLEM

JOHN CAMARENA | VALLEY STAR

THE WAITING GAME - Lines are being painted the ground while class in session Thursday morning at Los Angeles Valley College causing potentialy more lines and traffic for students rather than relieve the parking burden.

Students are continuing to search for parking at Valley College, depending on how you look at the numbers.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College continue to complain about overcrowded parking facilities, but campus administration suggests that students are too lazy to walk to their classrooms.

Tom Jacobsmeyer, Vice President of Administrative Services, has noticed fewer parking problems this semester. "Students' frustration has a tendency to build," Jacobsmeyer said, adding that the first two weeks are a transition time with students adding and dropping classes. The problem might also be more a matter of convenience than available spots. "Nobody wants to walk, so students cruise the lots for a spot that is closest to their classes."

Gabriel, a student at Valley, doesn't have a parking permit because he's had to pay $600 in books and fees for the fall semester. Now he can't afford to buy his permit and instead parks on the streets surrounding campus.

The enrollment policy is to require students to pay all their fees before being issued the parking sticker. When asked about $20 parking permits at Valley compared to $195 at UCLA, Gabriel said, "It's different—it's UCLA—this is a community college."

The current two week grace period where students will not be ticketed will be replaced by parking enforcement patrolling the 3,700 student spots and handing out $35 tickets for illegally parked cars. The college is even considering increasing the fine to further discourage students from parking outside the designated student parking spots.

According to Jacobsmeyer, students parking in designated faculty spots is a growing problem. "We'd rather sell parking passes than ticket the students. If you want to buy a permit, we'll sell it."

Parking spots may be reduced in the future due to construction of 11 new buildings over the next several years. These buildings are funded by a $5.7 billion bond from tax increases specifically designated for renovations and constructions as outlined in the educational master plan.

But among these new buildings will also be a multi-level parking structure adding 1,200 parking spots. Valley has used a turnover rate of three times daily in planning the parking facilities on campus; that is the amount of times the lot will fill up and empty again within a given day.

With 3,700 student parking spots there should be an average of 1,700 available spots somewhere on campus at any one time.

Duane Martin, Administrative Analyst, has registered 17,506 students—a drop of 2,153 students compared to last year—per Aug. 31. These numbers may change during the next week as students either settle into their classes or drop out.

Add slips are also not finalized yet, so there may still be great fluctuation in the number of enrolled students looking for parking.

Psychology major Morgan Spencer is enrolled in her second semester and doesn't have a parking permit despite parking in the newly renovated lot on the corner of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. "Fingers crossed," Spencer says, hoping to avoid getting a ticket. "There's never enough parking, even with this new lot."

Permits can be purchased at the Business Office located in the bungalow on the corner of Campus Drive and Hatteras Street, or online through the Los Angeles Community College District Student Information System www.laccd.edu/student_information/sis_logon.asp

"DREAM" BECOMING REALITY

After approval from the state senate and assembly, undocumented and high school students who have been in California for more than three years from out of state could receive financial aid.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

Gov. Jerry Brown's signature on Sunday, Oct. 9 could change the lives of many undocumented students to receive eligibility for state financial aid for higher education.

The second part of California's Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, better known as the DREAM Act passed in the state senate and assembly on Friday, Sept 2. AB 131 would give those students who are undocumented access to state financial aid such as Cal Grants and the Board of Governors fee waivers for community college students.

California State Senate passed the AB 131 on Wednesday, Aug. 31 with an amendment to eliminate a section to provide out-of-state students who have met residency requirements and have attended one year of school in California the ability to obtain state funding. On Sept. 2, the State Assembly passed the amendments that the Senate made is now on Brown's desk for his signature of approval.

Jenesis Garcia, a business major is excited if Brown signs the bill.

"I think that's awesome because I know some people who don't have papers and they have been here since they were one and they can't go to college or anything," explained Garcia. "They pretty much grew up here and they know English as well as anyone else, it would be good."

Students that could be eligible for financial aid, if approved, must meet the requirements of AB 540. AB 540 requirements are that students must graduate from a California high school after attending for more than three years and also must fill out documents and state their intent to apply for their citizenship.

"Between 28,000 and 40,000 undocumented students in California could benefit from the bill," said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, director of communications and public relations at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles in an article from the Daily Bruin.

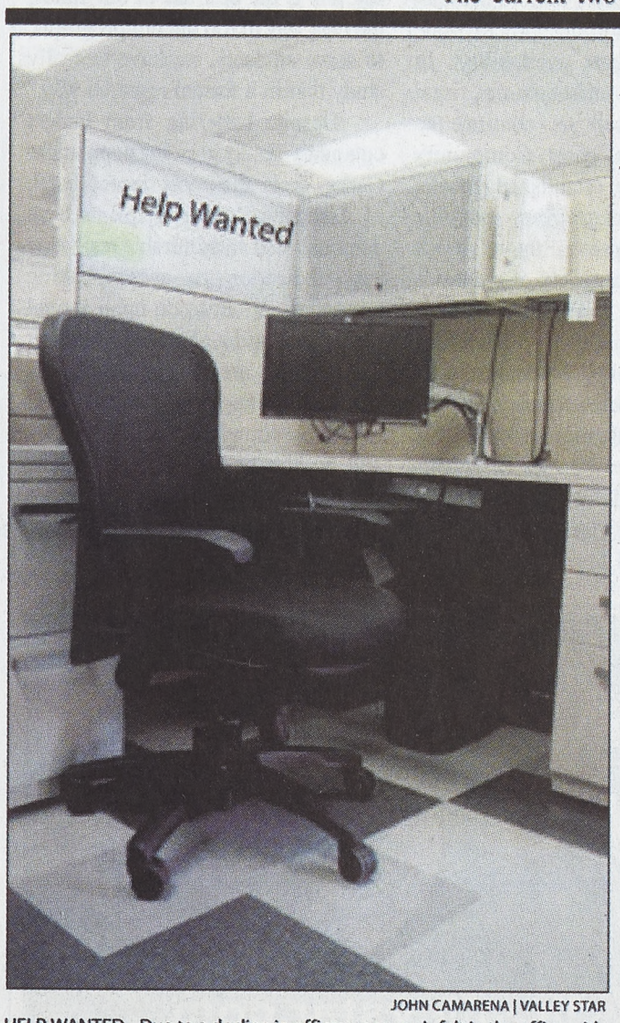
Physical Therapy major, Serena Songco is on the fence whether the DREAM Act is a good idea or not.

"It depends," said Songco. "What about the students have been here for a while? They're trying to get financial aid. It's really hard for us to get money nowadays. It's really hard to give an opinion on it."

Those who could also benefit from AB 131 in receiving state financial aid are students also student citizens who have moved from other states in the country in their high school years.

With Jerry Brown who advocated for the DREAM Act during his campaign, he is expected to sign the bill within the next 30 days.

ASU IS LEFT WITH A EMPTY FEELING AGAIN



JOHN CAMARENA | VALLEY STAR

HELP WANTED - Due to a decline in offiers, vacancy is felt in the office with spaces left to be filled.

The Associated Student Union Executive Council is looking to select eight students to fill the remaining positions.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

With a successful outcome of Welcome Back Day hosted by the Associated Student Union, ASU is now on the move to find student representatives to fill the remaining positions of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council is comprised of 15 positions. Currently, there are only seven officers serving since the 2011 spring semester elections. Eight officers will be appointed on Tuesday, Sept. 20 after being interviewed by the current Executive Council.

"To serve the students we need a full board," said ASU President, Norvan Berkezyan. "Right now we have seven positions filled and we are doing the work of 15 positions. So, by getting more people on the board we can not only do what is expected of 15 people, but we can even do more."

The eight representatives open are Chief Justice, Parliamentarian, Commissioner of Athletics, Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs, Commissioner of Political Affairs, Commissioner of Evening Division, Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs and ICC Senate Representative. Those who are interested must fill out an application available online or at the ASU office along with a resume.

"The constitution stipulates that at the end of the year... the student body has elections and elects all of the officers," explained ASU Vice President, Eduard Grigoryan. "If some positions are not filled after the elections, then starting next year in September the current board gets to appoint people to those positions."

Students who apply for the unoccupied positions will be interviewed by the ASU Executive Council.

"There is no official manual [of

|See ASU, Page 2|

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The last day to add a class or challenge a prerequisite is Friday, Sept. 9.

The deadline to drop a class without incurring fees or with a refund of enrollment fees is Monday, Sept. 12.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES:

Movie Review for "Bucky Larson: Born to be a Star"

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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HOT DOG! - Norvan Berkerzyan president of the ASU grilled hotdogs for the new and returning students

FREE HOT DOGS WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

ASU held the first student event of the fall semester with free hot dogs while scouting for new recruits.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union hosted an event on Thursday welcoming students back for the fall semester laying out free food and sporting friendlysmiles.

"It's a good event," said Biology major Petros Keoseyan. "It's a great chance for students to get to know the ASU and it's an opportunity (for students) to learn about the clubs."

The ASU sponsored event, advertised on Valley's website to begin at 11 a.m. Thursday, began over a half hour late and consisted of a hot dog barbeque manned by the ASU staff. Though there was no music or balloons to advertising the event on campus, the ASU picked a prime location: directly across from the packed student store.

"I wasn't aware of the ASU event," stated Valley student Elisa Thrash. "But I would like to see the turnout, the event and, of course, eat the food. Plus, I'm interested in the clubs and finding out more about the school; seeing stuff like the student (and ASU) interaction." Despite the technical difficulties(what technical difficulties?) and a late start, the ASU barbeque was a success. Hungry students eagerly formed lines to receive their free food. A few students introduced themselves to the fresh ASU body inquiring about open government positions as well as clubs. Others lounged on Valleys lush green grass to enjoy their dogs.

> **"The event was good. People are happy the food is free and they can learn aout the different clubs.**
>
> -Norvan Berkezyan
> ASU President

"The event is good. People are happy the food is free and they can learn about the different clubs," said ASU President Norvan Berkezyan. "We're here to inform students about the ASU student government and ways to start getting involved in clubs so that students feel like Monarchs, not just Valley students."

"This year is an all new board of first time ASU members...I think this is a positive thing," grinned Keoseyan.

ASU

Continued from page 1

what we are looking for in a candidate], but definitely... a trait that everyone must have is a great work ethic because [the job] is a responsibility," said ASU Secretary Bryan Ayala. "It is a team... that consists of everybody and everyone has to be responsible."

ASU is doubly tasked in getting the word out about how the Executive Council is beneficial to the many students they represent who do not know what their purpose is.

"I have no idea what ASU is," said undecided major Lorenzo Lucero. "I don't really participate on campus."

Students like music major Edwin Garcia, feels that are more important things for him to be involved in.

"I would participate, but I have things at home to do and take care of my family," Garcia said. "But everyone should know about it because it is on campus."

ASU is looking forward to having a full board and serving the students to the best of its ability.

"Once the board fills up it will be nice to see how everyone works," said Commissioner of Fine Arts, Ashley Miller.

For more information about the unoccupied positions visit the ASU office at the Student Services Center 205 or visit http://lavc.edu/asu/executivecouncil.html.

LAVC BOOKSTORE TURNS TO RENTALS FOR SALES

The LAVC Bookstore implements a textbook rental program to bring students back.

ROME MOORE
STAFF WRITER

As students look for more ways to save, The Valley College bookstore has added a book rental program in an attempt to win them back from online book retailers. The new program, started on the first day of the semester, hopes to combat low sales numbers since students have taken much of their business to the world wide web. Online suppliers have bitten into the sales numbers on many college campuses with their lower prices and easy accessibility of ebooks and rental programs. The staff at the bookstore is excited about the rentals and hopes it will boast sales numbers, as well as help the students which don't have to cover shipping cost incurred with online sales.

"It's a way to provide more options to the students," said bookstore employee Erik Long. "We have around 300 titles for rent at the moment. Every little bit of savings helps." According to the staff the program had been talked about in the past but couldn't be implemented at the time. Store Supervisor Mary John said, "It wasn't the right time before, but [it] came down to a situation of now or never. Our computers and staff are ready now." For many workers the program couldn't come soon enough as the bookstore had been looking for new ways to drive more traffic into its doors.

As successful as the book rentals can be, word of mouth and price are still obstacles. "I didn't even know about the rental program," said student Yazgen Mutafyan. "I wouldn't pay it," quipped Princess Solomon while checking out the rental prices. "If it's $50 to buy a new book and $33 to rent it, why would I give them $33 dollars and not get anything back?"

To take part in the program you need a valid ID, an email address, and a credit card. According the staff, the faculty are excited about the program as students could acquire their textbooks quicker and have a chance to get ahead. However, many student are finding the last requirement of the program a frustration because you must have a valid credit card and not a debit card. "Obviously we can't do that. We have to be able to replace the book if a student never returns it," John said.

The book rentals are picking up steam though as many students said they would try it out or already have. One in particular said he thinks it will make a difference in him shopping in the book store. Nickole Brian said she couldn't wait to take advantage of the program. "I'm going to rent my Math 125 book as soon as I get a chance."

SUCCESS MAY LEAD TO FURTHER PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS

Hispanic and Asian American students who received Associate degrees last year set positive examples for the progress of current and future students.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

"Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" named Valley College as one of the top 100 schools in the nation for the 2009-10 academic year for producing Associate degrees in all disciplines. Fifty five degrees were awarded to Hispanic students and 81 to Asian American students. The success of these individuals will serve as a platform for growth for future generations of every category of student as Valley strives to improve its educational standards.

"It's wonderful," said President Susan Carleo. "The reason we're here is to help students achieve their educational goals and the more that we can show that all of our students are doing that, regardless of the background that they come to us with, then that's a good thing for Valley College."

Carleo and staff members such as Dean of Research Michelle Fowles, who controls most of the data gathered, hope to use the success of these students as one example to study and build upon in order to improve success for students in the future. Through observations, focus groups, surveys and other formal studies, the staff at Valley hopes to increase student efficiency.

"When we see a particular group of students that are doing extremely well... for example,[the groups that saw an increase] in AA degrees... one of the things we want to do is find out why," said Carleo. "What did we do right, as well as maybe what we're not doing right, so that we can do more of that for more people. That's why these ratings are very helpful and now we need to drill down, dig a little deeper and find out what actually happened here."

As a result of the increasing budget cuts in the past ten years, receiving a degree or qualifying for transfer has become a more difficult and time consuming process due to lack of class availability. In order to both offset these fiscal setbacks as well as continue to accomplish the goals Community Colleges were established to do, Valley is making every possible effort to improve upon itself.

There are a variety of programs and resources currently available to students including EOPS, which assists eligible students with economic and educational challenges by monitoring them in order to keep them focused and on track, Puente, TRIO, and CAL Works which offer intensive individual counseling as well as personal development classes, as well as TRIO and Cal works. These counseling opportunities are what assisted students like Natalie Lozanos in receiving her degree.

"When I was able to get an appointment, the counselors did what they could to help me," said Natalie Lozanos, who received an Associate degree in Photo Journalism last semester. Besides these already available programs, Valley is motivated to do more.

"We have several things that are not dollar driven per se but are effectiveness driven," said Carleo, adding, "the principle I like to think of it as is not that we're going to do more with less, because that is an impossible task we've already done that twelve times over, what we're trying to do now is to do the best with what we've got. To be able to say this is the best use of our funds, the best way to roll out our programs, to serve students, we have to really study that in a formal research way."

Despite battering from budget cuts and a rapidly growing population, Carleo feels the most recent batch of Associate Degree recipients have demonstrated an admirable resilience and dedication to accomplishing what they set out to do upon arrival but there is still a country mile to go.

"There are a lot of things we can't change that would help students complete more quickly and so the budget cuts just make it harder but that doesn't mean we can't try to make it better, I mean that's what we're motivated to try

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OFFERING HOPE WHEN FEW OTHERS DO

Valley expands online The award-winning program is in its 17th year of existence.

MATTHEW ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

In an ever increasing unemployment rate in Los Angeles, it's easy for prospective employees to lose hope in finding a job. However, according to Lennie Ciufo, director for Valley College's job training program, the best thing about the program is that, "We offer hope."

The Valley College Job Training Program's main objective is to place the right people with the right companies. Companies do not have all the answers as far as hiring and training goes, so that is where the Valley College Job Training steps in. The program goes through a structured and layered process with numerous companies, to make sure that their prospective employees are thoroughly capable and trained to work for their prospective employers.

Since 1999, the program has garnered more than 29 awards for their work in job placement. But as Ciufo puts it, "It's nice to be recognized, but it's really about job placement." The success rate of the program in placing applicants into jobs is mind-boggling.

Over the years, more than 18,000 job seekers have been trained and hired on jobs with the help of this program. Just by clicking on the statistics link on the program's website one can get a good idea of the success of the program: there were 14 companies highlighted and the average job placement rate was 96 percent.

> **"It's nice to be recognized, but it's really about the job placement.**
>
> -Lenny Ciufo
> Director, LAVC Job Training Program

As a prospective job applicant, one must take the initiative to take this process very seriously. After all, having food on the table, money to pay bills, and of course rent are necessities that need to be taken care of. Senior Project Coordinator Tony Jaramillo was very matter of fact and honest, when it came to describing the serious, or lack thereof, nature of many applicants. Jaramillo stated, "Applicants are unprepared, they don't know how to apply, and some even lie on their resumes."

As Jaramillo and Ciufo also pointed out, these are tough times and applicants do not always have time to cross their I's and dot their T's. But this program is not in the business of skimming over details, they are interested in the serious and multi-layered process that it takes to not only find a job, but the right job.

The Valley College Job Training Program is here for job seekers and employers. So in turn, job applicants out there must do themselves a favor and seek out this program because people like Ciufo, Jaramillo, Dale Beck, Marcella K. Sardanis and countless others are here to help.

TEN YEARS GONE

A decade after 9/11, it's hard to tell what America is and where we're going.

JOSHUA P. SPENCE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I'm not saying the terrorists won, but I can't say America's winning either.

Ten years ago, I remember being in my room getting ready for school and wondering why CNN was focusing so intently on a fire in New York. Must've been a slow news day. I arrive at school and subsequently spent the whole day and night watching the horror unfurl on TV as it's very rare that you see history happen before you very eyes.

It was the first time I had ever seen an afternoon edition of the Los Angeles Times; I still have it as a reminder of what real journalism is. What's worse was you couldn't change the channel. Every channel was on emergency transmission, you know like how they have it in horror films when the end of the world is happening.

In many ways, the world did end. The idea of the United States being this invincible Superman country, no longer existed. The thought that America could just throw its weight around and tell the world what to do was over. The notion that I didn't really have to think about how the world functions and my small part in it, dead.

It's a funny question, "Are we winning the war on terrorism?" It's something that can't be measured, you can't even measure the lives wasted in pursuit of this vapid concept. Just because America carpet-bombed Afghanistan, toppled Saddam Hussein, is currently after Muammar Gaddafi, and spent the better part of a decade chasing and finally eliminated Osama bin Laden, have we won? No. Not by a long shot. As long as people admire bin Laden, Adolph Hitler, the Irish Republican Army, Hamas and the Shining Path (which millions do), there will be terrorism.

The real question is, "Do we still care about terrorism?" An emphatic yes for the families who lost a family member because of it or are currently serving the cause. But the sheeple, herd-like general public, it's an easy, emphatic no. One exception would be the fine people at Disney who had no qualms trademarking SEAL team six, the unit that ultimately eliminated bin Laden. Very classy. Try this. Ask someone if they can name three of the eight members of "Jersey Shore," no problem. Then ask the same person to name three living terrorists or terrorist organizations, see what happens.

Ultimately, 9/11 won't be measured as something won or lost as much as it will always serve as a mirror for what America is and what it could be. Post 9/11, who didn't have a shirt of the American flag or something saying "United We Stand"? That shirt probably now serves as rags to wash the car. When it comes to healthcare, education, social security or jobs, no one can agree on anything except the other side is wrong. Lets try to remember all the things that makes this country great even when it's easier to forget.

IT'S ONE HELL OF A WAGER

Adding classes shouldn't be left to a game of chance

JOSHUA P. SPENCE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The odds of winning the California Mega Millions Lottery are currently 175,711,536 to one. It's no shock to students that they have a better shot of hitting the jackpot than adding a class at Valley College this semester.

It's so easy to cast blame as to why there are so few classes and so many students. It's the administration's fault until you look at their miniscule budget and end up surprised that there are as many classes as there are.

Let's blame the teachers. Ultimately, it's them who decide if you're in the class until you realize that they actually get in trouble for trying to double their student intake.

Blaming the students is always a fallback option. Sure, some are lazy and figured they could add a class at the last minute that everyone else on campus is also trying to add. However, most are new students trying to make their transfer deadline or students one class shy of graduating.

The incessant talk of micro and macro issues inundate students at every turn. If it's not the budget crisis for community colleges, it's California being virtually bankrupt. If it's not the unemployment rate hanging tough at 12 percent and America's recession, it's the global economic depression.

"THE LOTTERY" BY EDUARDO ALVAREZ| VALLEY STAR

Students are being told at every turn that it's a brave new world, that the way things were before are changing and that we need to adapt. If one critique could be made, the archaic process of adding and dropping classes should be paramount to change.

Ask any student and they can recall horrific stories of adding a class. There's been lotteries, drawing straws, relay races, among other things to determine who gets in or kept out of a class. There is nothing wrong with not being added because a class is full, but to have a class and ultimately your educational career hang in the balance over a game of chance is unacceptable. It's not fair to the student or the teacher.

While you can beat the drum all day that infrastructure needs to be changed for adding a class, the same could be said for dropping a class. So many students hoard classes and then decide which classes or teachers they want to cherry pick. Everything sounds well and good when you have all the cards until you're on the outside looking in needing that one class for eligibility, financial aid, transfer, or graduation.

It's no longer about working hard, it's about working smart. With limited resources, seemingly for the long term, no one can afford to waste anything. Those who didn't have the grades or finances to immediately transfer to a four-year university have been able to find solace in the community college system. While these local colleges have been a haven for slackers and hard-luck stories in years past, education, sadly, is becoming less of a right and more of a privilege.

BACHMANN'S PRIMARY MESSAGE: IT'S NOT ME, IT'S GOD

Michelle Bachmann is crazy like a crazy person.

JOSHUA P. SPENCE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Many people look to historical figures for inspiration. Thomas Edison had a chart of Leonardo Da Vinci's achievements and compared his work to that of the immortal inventor. God bless Michelle Bachmann for choosing Joan of Arc as her muse.

The Minnesota Congresswoman and Tea Party presidential candidate has to be loving all the media attention she's received over the summer. Mantras of any press being good press doesn't really apply to presidential candidates when voters are just looking for someone who won't end the world. Well, she wouldn't, but God is another story.

At a recent east coast campaign tour stop Bachmann said, "I don't know how much God has to do to get the attention of the politicians. We've had an earthquake, we've had a hurricane. He said, 'Are you going to start listening to me here?"

There are so many things wrong with that statement that it's a cornucopia of blunder. It's a master stroke of idiot-savant technique to insult the East Coast (because it's not like you need New York to win an election), New Orleans, pander to her audience and ask all the pagans that aren't part of her micro fan base for their vote. The true genius is accepting no accountability. It's not her, it's God. Maybe there is too much reading between the lines.

"Of course she was saying it in jest," said Alice Stewart, spokeswoman for Bachmann's campaign. How silly of the American public to not get the congresswoman's rapier dry wit. It's just her type of off-brand humor to confuse the hometowns of American icon John Wayne with serial killer John Wayne Gacy. Comedy gold. Minnesota isn't the capital of comedy, it's the capital of being bland. This practice of mixing God and politics is dangerous and polarizing. It's the reason why America has the separation of church and state, it's also cause of all the unrest in the Middle East. If these are jokes, Bachmann needs a new writer. Hopefully, Bachmann knows that in the end Joan of Arc burned at the stake.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

The new parking lot may be more efficient and have more spaces but there is always room to complain.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

Long lines at Administration, Business Office and Bookstore are only a few things Valley College students have to deal with at the beginning of each semester. While playing the lottery in order to add classes is optional; everyone must deal with parking one way or another. The new parking lot at Valley College seems to have not only improved the overall look of the lot, but it also has solved many problems students have had previously

Parking lot A on the corner of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue is probably one of the most significant upgrades on the Los Angeles Valley College campus. The lot consists of a very convenient walkway that allows those who take the bus, to be able to cross the parking lot and arrive safely to the bus stop "before you had to go around it," said student Monica Martinez "now is easier to get across." The lot also consists of various plants and trees, "is nice that they are actually growing some trees because it creates shadow" said Josh, a business major. But perhaps the most important additions to the parking lot are the stop signs "the stop signs are better and they are important, is good to see that they [students] are actually using it" said Josh. "The stop sign is a plus," a parking lot attendance said.

Despite of all the confusion concerning the new parking lot, most students approve of the changes done to parking lot A "I like it better than the way it was before" Chris Perez a valley college student said. According to the lavc revitalizing valley website, new parking lot lighting and blue light emergency phone will still be added in order "to ensure safety."

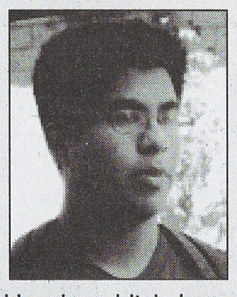
With all the changes that have been made to the lot, many students still have a hard time adjusting, "some problems we've had are the usual, some students are making illegal U turns, people are going the wrong way and other drive on places they are not supposed to" said parking lot attendant, Alan. Alan also mentioned that in the first few weeks "students will hate the changes because everyone is trying to find classes and find parking spot."

Although it will take some time for students to adjust, many will find the changes to parking lot A positive. For instance, the lot seems have expanded, there is more space and, most importantly, regulation has been provided, which should make students feel safer. If you are having problems with parking now, do not worry, this problem diminishes as the semester continuous, there are always cases of students dropping out, this creates a lot more space for those who stay.

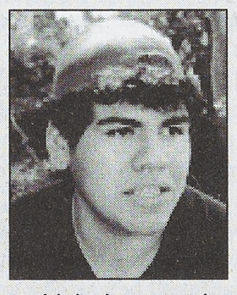
VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEW PARKING LOT?

I skateboard. From what I see it looks terrible.

-KIAN ASLANI
UNDECIDED


Parking is a bitch because it's the first week of school and people are trying to add classes.

-ALEX VALDEZ
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE


I just think they need more people to control the situation in case it gets to hectic.

-STEVE NARAJO
UNDECIDED

I know the first week, I was trying to get out and I spent about maybe 30 minutes because everything was closed.

-FABY MARTINEZ
SOCIOLOGY

I was lucky to find parking, but there's just a lot of waiting to do.

-NELIDA GONZALEZ
NURSING

COMPILED BY COURTNEY BASSLER AND DIANA ORTEGA | VALLEY STAR

BREAKING POINT

Classroom apathy leads to a poor learning environment.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

There is a point where a student's idiocy becomes insolence, a point where "efficiency" is really irresponsibility, and a point where education needs to be realized as a privilege and not a right. At Valley College a consistent theme among the students is that they take the availability of education for granted?

A prime example of this insolence is those students who do not pay attention in class, leading to an instructor calling them out, forcing the lesson to change course from a learning experience to a five-minute time squander of "errs" and "uuhs." It's irritating and depressing. At that point, students don't appear moronic but are also wasting the time of your peers because they couldn't… listen. You're at a college; learn to be liable.

Speaking of college level, some instructors feel it is their moral obligation to teach at the pace of the slowest student so that no one is gets left behind. By this stage of the game students should be aware and prepared for what they are entering into and if someone is left behind, as regrettable as that may be, it is to the benefit of the majority of the students whose intent is to further their education. At some point, there needs to be some sort of educational Darwinism.

An unfortunate reality is that not everyone is afforded the same educational opportunities growing up, so there will be a struggle for some, and the tough realization is that that individual will have to work harder to keep afloat, it's not fair but it's necessary. So long as there is effort being made even if answers are delivered in a stream of stutters, it's acceptable.

Also, to address a peeve of many instructors, do not ask questions like, "What do we need to study the most on the quiz?" Study it all, learn it all, or take a personal development class so you know how to approach a quiz. Another favorite for the foreign language instructors, "Will we lose points for misspelling?" Yes. You are ideally attempting fluency in a new language; do you get points docked on an essay for misspelling? These questions do not lead to an efficient study session, they're hopes for shortcuts.

Education is considered a human right and while that's mostly true, education, or at least a good one, is a marvelous privilege that so many students don't seem to appreciate. This may seem like a list of peeves and rants, but what's important to realize is that higher education is a privilege and an honor. The current "drag" attitude that so many students dawn is insulting something so precious.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Fall Semester 2011 - Filing Period for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions.

Student Show 2011 sponsored by the LAVC Art Gallery @ 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. & 6- 9 p.m. (Art Gallery) - Contact: LAVC Art Gallery (818) 947-2431 huynhpx@lavc.edu Art Gallery Web Page.

Open Auditions for Reckless sponsored by LAVC Theater Arts Department @ 3:30-6:30 p.m. (Horseshoe Theater) – Contact: Cathy Susan Pyles (818) 947-2787 pylesce@yahoo.com LAVC Theater Web Page.

Thursday, Sept. 8

University of California TAG (Transfer Admission Guarantee) Webinar sponsored by Career/Transfer Center @ 10 a.m. (Student Services Annex – Counseling Department) – Contact: LAVC Career/Transfer Center (818) 778-5576 Career/Transfer Web Page

Student Show 2011 sponsored by the LAVC Art Gallery @ 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. & 6- 9 p.m. (Art Gallery) - Contact: Art Gallery (818) 947-2431 huynhpx@lavc.edu Art Gallery Web Page

Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Program Class @ 4:30- 8 p.m. (Faculty Lounge) – Contact: Liz Lopez (818) 947-2401

Open Auditions for Spring Awakening sponsored by LAVC Theater Arts Department @ 3:30- 6:30 pm (Horseshoe Theater) – Contact: Cathy Susan Pyles (818)947-2787 pylesce@yahoo.com LAVC Theater Web Page

Friday, Sept. 9

Fall Semester 2011 - Last Day to Add a Class

Fall Semester 2011 - Last Day to Challenge Prerequisites

Fall Semester 2011 - Filing Period for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions

Loyola High School Football Game sponsored by Loyola High School @ 7- 9:30 p.m. (Monarch Stadium); Parking: Lots E & G – Contact: Chris O'Donnell (213) 781-5121 x340

Saturday, Sept. 10

Fall Semester 2011 - Filing Period for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions

Honor Writing Group Meeting sponsored by LAVC IDEAS Program @ 1- 5 pm (Campus Center 104) – Contact: Dan Watanabe (310) 339-3990

Monday, Sept. 12

Fall Semester 2011 - Deadline to Drop Classes Without Incurring Fees (In-person or Online)

Fall Semester 2011 - Filing Period for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions

Screen Writing Group Meeting sponsored by LAVC IDEAS Program @ 7- 9:30 p.m. (Campus Center 104); Parking: Lot B – Contact: Dan Watanabe (818) 778-5569

STUDENT SHOW 2011 OFFERS MANY LOOKS

Student Show 2011 gives students an opportunity to get their creative juices flowing again after a long, dry summer.

JESSICA FLORES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's Student Show 2011, co-directed by Jamison Carter and Phung Huynh, is an optical treat full of sculptures, paintings, and exhibits for guests to see what students were working on during their endless summer.

Displayed at the entrance is a small suitcase open with multiple artifacts pasted and positioned in the suitcase forming a collage. Also positioned are a few sculptured pieces of artwork placed in both the corner and the center of the front entrance.

A human-form sculpture curled up in a ball implicates a strong sense of sympathy from the viewer. This piece de resistance assuredly captured the most emotion from the crowd.

Another impressive piece, created by Jillian Frederick, was Clandora's Box. The piece comprised of a music box that incased a sculpture of a child devouring massive amount of sweets. While the artwork was deliberately cryptic, it also served as a great conversation piece at the show.

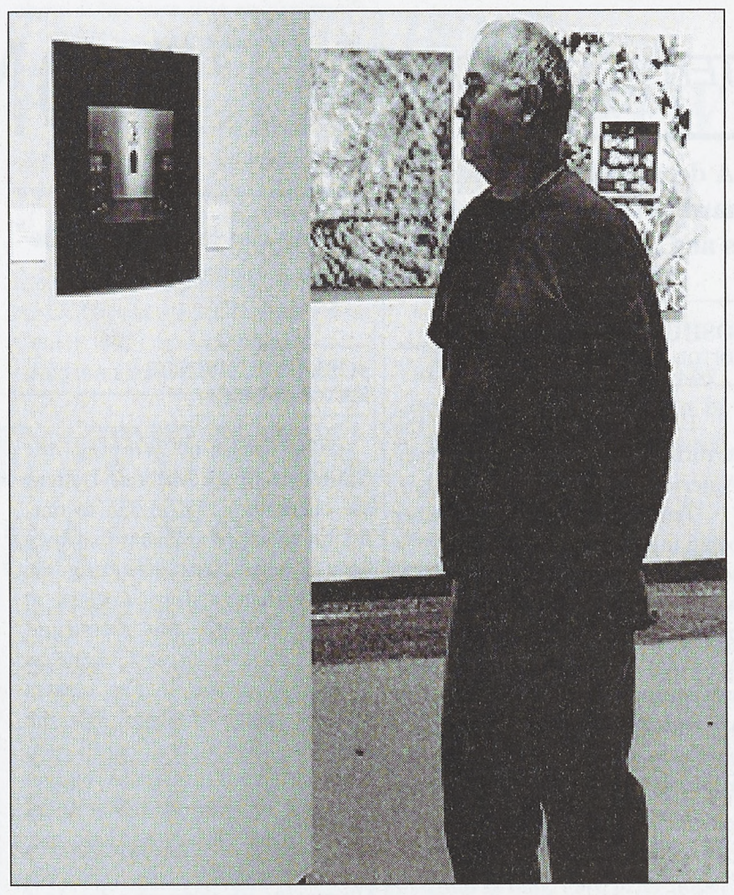
There is one drawing that stood out from the rest, not because of its originality or beauty but in its simplicity. Placed near the entrance was a simple, pencil drawing of a plus sized naked woman with one nipple.

While the artist's intention may have been that of showcasing "the incomplete woman," it's simplicity may have inferred that the piece itself wasn't complete.

Hung on the walls were skillful drawings and impressive photos. The one and only digital photo depicted civilians struggling to carry a decrepit ancient city on their shoulders.

Artist David Sirounian's intention here was to inspire sympathy for the civilians who are in a clear struggle to keep their home from falling apart. While other pieces worked the ambiguity angle to perfection, Sirounian's photo elicited pure sympathy.

Student Show 2011 runs through Thursday, Sept. 8 from 11 a.m-2 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.



SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

LOCAL TALENT- Joaquin Chavez is admiring the digital photo "David Sirounina to Audrey" created by David Sirounian A student of Tom Mossman teaching Photgraphics last spring semester 2011.

FOOD REVIEW

TACOS DONE RIGHT AT TACO LLAMA

Inexpensive tacos are waiting in Valley Village for those looking to satisfy their craving without eating their whole budget.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

When you crave authentic Mexican tacos with all the trimmings but don't quite have the budget for a trip to Mexico, the solution may be found in a tiny strip mall shop in Valley Village.

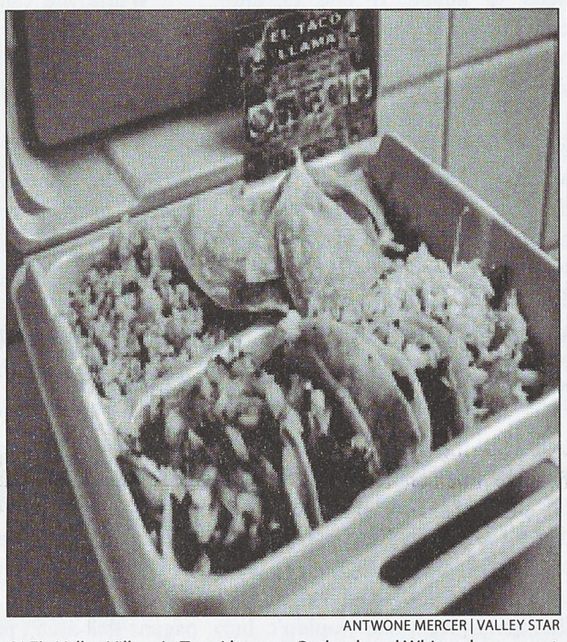
You may have driven past this little gem of a restaurant and not given it a second glance. Granted, it doesn't have the most charming location or interior design. The overhead fluorescent lighting, blaring TV, and startling color combination of yellow, black, and hospital white is a peculiar contrast to the hand-painted wall mural. This restaurant doesn't encourage you to linger—this is a place to eat your food and get on with your life.

But where the interior design skills are lacking, the food certainly makes up for it. The selection of meat for your tacos is staggering: carnitas style beef, followed by beef tongue, head, or stomach. Or chicken, fish, BBQ, and finally pork.

If tacos aren't your thing you can always rely on a burrito the size of your underarm, fried fish, or a simple quesadilla. The corn chips are made on location, and if you time your visit right you may be lucky to experience heaps of meat being cooked tender on the well-worn grill.

You can order either from the a la carte menu, or pick from the 16 combo meals reasonably priced at $6.38 plus tax. Also turn your attention to the complimentary condiments cart brimming with red and green sauce, salsa, and if you feel like challenging your taste buds the pickled radishes, carrots and jalapeno peppers will do nicely.

Tips: This is a cash-only eatery, so stop by the ATM on your way. And don't expect too much conversation; unless Spanish is in your vocabulary refer to the illustrated menu hanging on the wall. You can't go wrong.



ANTWONE MERCER | VALLEY STAR

OLE' - Valley Village's, Taco Llama on Burbank and Whitset have a vast array of combos, Taco Llama's 3 taco special includes 3 tacos beans rice a mexi-salad and a medium soft drink all for only $6.50.

MUSIC REVIEW

MONEY WINS OVER ART

Lil Wayne brought everything except what made us love him to Tha Carter IV.

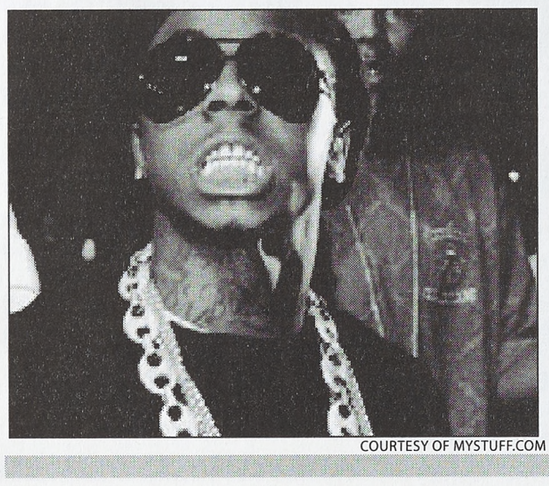
ROME MOORE
STAFF WRITER

In 2008 Lil Wayne declared himself the best rapper alive and found himself on top of the music world with the release of Tha Carter III. Basking in all the praise he released a "thank you" version of the album's trademark tune, A Milli. "A million sold, first day I went gold, how do I celebrate, work on Tha Carter IV." The long wait for the highly anticipated Carter IV came to an end at midnight Monday, and the results: disappointing.

While we do get Wayne's best on 6'7", the rest of the album seems uninspired. We are looking for something in DeWayne Carter that I'm not sure he is sure of yet. It's as if he is a hot hip hop cognac but he is starting to attempt fit in with the fine wines of hip hop. While it is much better than most other hip-hop albums out at the moment we expect so much more than what is here from someone of Weezy's caliber. Don't get me wrong. It does have it's shining moments. There are some club bangers here. John ft. Rick Ross has an aggressive beat that both artist flow on smoothly and "She Will" ft. Drake will probably become a staple in Atlanta, Ga. strip clubs. The problem is that club bangers are just that; club bangers. Ear catching is the shot at Jay-Z on "It's Good" that leaves you wondering if we could have a legendary hip hop battle on the horizon.

However it has it's share of letdowns too. Wayne tries to capture some of the magic he made in '08 with T-Pain on "How To Hate" but the song sounds over-produced and T-Pain over reliance on auto-tune for his singing make the song incredibly annoying. Even Andre 3000 from Outkast fame couldn't save "Interlude" Wayne went back to a familiar formula that he used on earlier albums where the same beat is used for the intro, interlude, and outro of the album. There is a hidden treat in "Outro" as Nas goes harder on the mic than he has in years. As good as he goes in, it's not enough to save the album from overused cliche's that Wayne relies too heavily on. "The F. is for (fill in the blank)",

If you keep listening to this album without looking for something deeper in it you will enjoy it. The blessing and the curse of this entire album is that even in his failures, Wayne sounds like nothing else in the rap world. His word play, be it cliche or not, is still unique even if you heard it all before. The great loss of the album is we look to Wayne to set trends and create styles, but on this album there isn't anything new. It will still go multi-platinum. He will definitely make millions off of the album, but he seems to have left all the creativity that made him a young hip hop legend on mixtapes leading up to Tha Carter IV.



COURTESY OF MYSTUFF.COM

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

FREE TUTORING FOR ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT VALLEY COLLEGE.

MATH CENTER:
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WRITING CENTER:
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday and Wednesday
1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BRING A VALID VALLEY COLLEGE I.D.

THE CURTAIN IS ABOUT TO RISE ON THE FALL SEASON AT VALLEY

Auditions and rehearsals are scheduled as the fall season comes together.

ROME MOORE
STAFF WRITER

The curtain is about to rise on another fall season of shows at the Los Angeles Valley College Theater department. Excitement is high as there are more than 50 students auditioning for each of the last two plays, which will make the theatre building look like a typical Hollywood casting office over the evenings of Sept. 7th & 8th. The difference is these students will be trying out for theatrical productions "Reckless" by Craig Lucas, and Spring Awakening; a musical written by Steven Sater. Everyone is gearing up and they are excited to rehearse for the upcoming shows that they hope will show off the talents and diversity of the department.

"We want to provide opportunites on both sides of the footlights," said "Reckless" director C. Coddington. We have a terrific range in this building from the plays we do, to the people we try to bring in. We need people who are interested in more than just acting he also added. Coddington, who is also directing "The Importance of Being Earnest," is looking forward to evaluating the talented hopefuls for a spot on the dark comedy. The department tries to provide as many opportunities as they can for students regardless of their interest level in theater. There are opportunities in sound, costumes, and lighting for eager students.

His enthusiasm is shared by theater student Carlo Maghirang who will be auditioning for the upcoming shows. "Everyone is excited for Spring Awakening," he said. "We have a real chance to bring in people from other departments to see what we can do."

Theater student, Matt Strunin also shared his passion for acting and the theater department at LAVC. "It has that draw. You can establish yourself here and not worry about competition," he said. "Everyone works together." He hopes his time at Valley will be well spent as he hopes it leads to bigger things down the line. He has received work outside of the school because of his work here. "A lot of people get employment, not just performance majors."

If you want a chance at being on stage at Valley College this semester, the auditions for Spring Awakening, directed by Cathy Pyles, are Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:30pm-9:30pm and Thursday, Sept. 8 from 3:30pm-6:30pm in the Horseshoe Theater in the LAVC Theater department. "Reckless" auditions are also Sept. 7th and 8th, however the hours are 3:30pm-6:30pm Wednesday and 6:30pm-9:30pm Thursday. The first show, "The Importance of Being Earnest" being performed in Oct., has already been cast. The theater deparment can be reached at 818-947-2786.

OBITUARY

TRUNG NGUYEN LEAVES A VOID

The recent death of Valley College's football equipment manager, Trung Nguyen, leaves the program in dire straits.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College football equipment manager, Trung "Tbone" Nguyen, passed away on Aug. 3, from heart failure. His absence has left members of the athletic program struggling to replace the work load of Nguyen and his 26-years of experience with the Valley football team.

"He was the back bone of the team, anything that was needed, he got done," Valley Sports Information Director Dale Beck said. "It's taken, in my understanding, eight people to do what one guy did. T bone had a system. We are going to find out more things [that he did] … that's the loss of T bone."

Nguyen, born Sept. 25 1952, was found dead on Aug. 4, in Lancaster where he resided with his long time friend Brent Mead. Nguyen was heading into his 26th season with the Monarch football program and his loss has revealed how much responsibility, care and passion Nguyen carried for the Monarch football players and athletic program.

"He was part of the family," football Coach Jim Fenwick said. "It's a very big loss to us both personally as a friend as well [with] all of the work he has done."

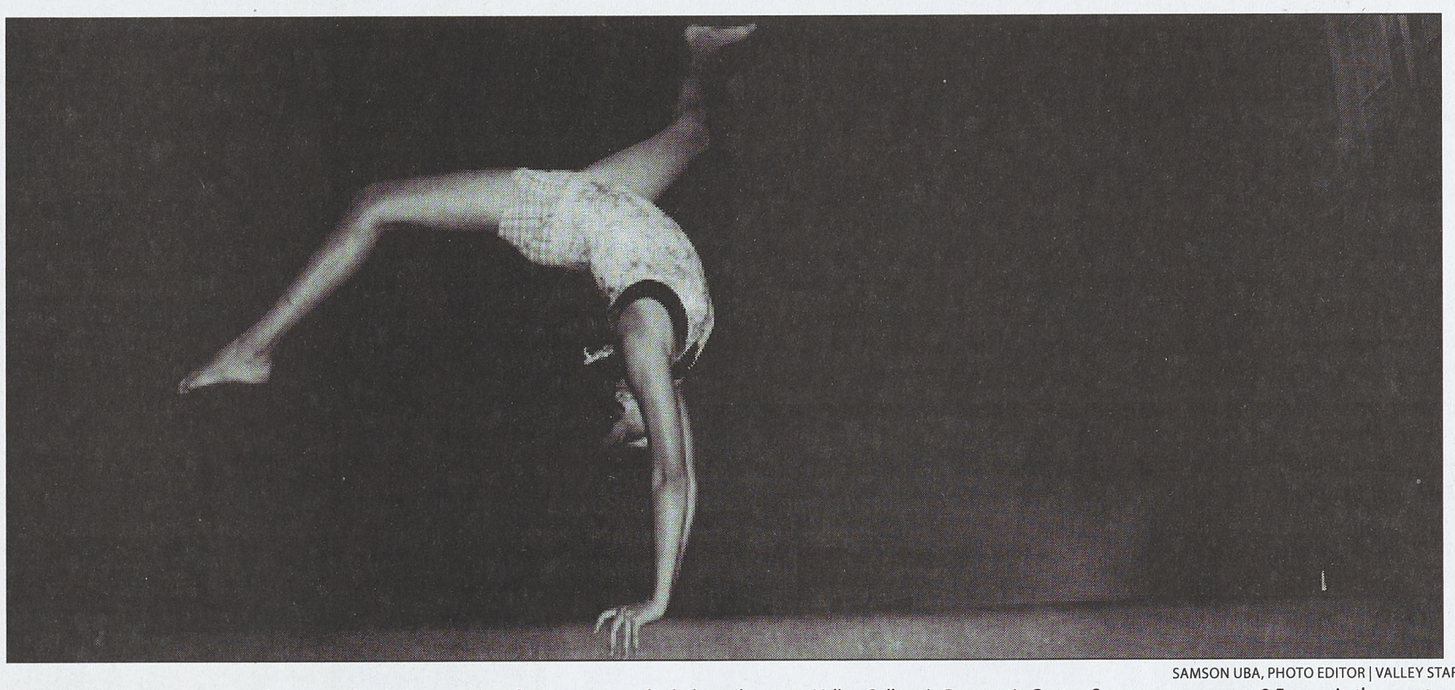
According to Fenwick, Nguyen's title of "equipment manager" does not come close to describing the obligations T bone had as a staff member in the program.

"Equipment manager doesn't begin to cover what he does for all the people that have been here in the football program in the past 25 years," Fenwick said. "He's a very conscientious; loyal person that loves to please and take care of anybody and everybody … it's a tremendous loss."

The Valley football team will play its first home game Friday night at Monarch stadium. The team will wear decals which say "T" with two bones on their helmets, and will dedicate the season to the very valued and missed staff member "T bone."

"There's a hole in our program," Valley Athletic Director Diedra Stark said. "He filled a big gap for our coaches and staff; especially for the kids … he was an amazing dad for our football players. It was so unexpected and he just left such a hole in our program. We are all pulling together to make this year work without him."

NO LONGER ALTERNATIVE



SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

BALANCING ACT - Bianca Sassone focuses on her balance and perfect posture on the balance beam at Valley College's Gymnastic Center. Sassone averages an 8.5 score in the event.

Various sports that may seem unusual to some people are becoming increasingly popular to students in search of a good activity.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
STAFF WRITER

A look around the Valley College campus or any other modern institution where different sports are played will show the onlooker a wide variety of physical activities taking place that are seeing a big jump in popularity.

Gary Honjio, Chairperson of the Physical Education at Valley, spoke of what our campus has to offer in terms of those sports that may be as he puts it "off the beaten path", saying "In addition to the major sport activities, our department offers, diving, water polo, aqua aerobics, yoga, self defense for women, gymnastics, tumbling, golf, cross training, body conditioning, judo, soccer, softball, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, weight training, swimming, a variety of dance classes and has an activity program for students with disabilities."

Students feel these sports, that some may consider unusual, are a positive change that will lead to better athletics.

Valley student Francisco Magana spoke of his thoughts on sports that may not always be traditional.

"To me, it's actually interesting to participate in disciplines other than the regular contact sports", and went on to say, "for various reasons like health problems preventing people from playing a certain sport and other restrictions, the students turn to the alternatives that are available for them."

In many instances, athletes participate in more than one sport at the same time, and just like the people who spend their time and energy on only one sport, these multi-taskers are more willing to do what they do when all the activities they give their time to are enjoyable and can be handled along with their educational pursuits.

Valley student Estefania Alvarez partakes in such a sport, saying "I do cheer, cross-country, hurdles, and I also do track, and pole vault. It's all really fun."

Honjio spoke further on what it is he and his colleagues at Valley try to teach to the athletes that are under their wing, saying "In general, the Physical Education (Kinesiology) department tries to offer a diverse schedule of sport activities for students. A narrowly focused major sport activity schedule of football, Basketball, Baseball, etc., does not meet the interest needs of a diverse student population."

Coaches, instructors and other school officials that are on the side of well-rounded athletics is an essential ingredient in this sports melting-pot that is always expanding.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

BREAKING THE MOLD

Madden NFL 12 by EA Sports listens to its fans and starts to get it right

ROME MOORE
STAFF WRITER

We may have been threatened with the possibility of not having the NFL this year, but the one thing about football is that it never changes. Madden NFL 12 by EA Sports was released Aug. 30 giving millions of gamers a purpose to spend countless hours in front of the television, college kids an excuse to skip class and girlfriends a reason to complain about being ignored. The guys at the developer, EA Tiberon, may not have gotten everything right but they definitely made a move in the right direction. This is the most enjoyable Madden in years.

The graphics of the game grab you immediately. This is the best looking Madden to date thanks to a revamped lighting system. The shading in the stadium is the most lifelike its ever been. The sun progresses across the sky during the games giving way to the evening and the art team captured it perfectly. All you have to do is start a game at Cowboys Stadium with the roof open to see what a digital football is supposed to look like. The presentations also took a huge step forward. EA captured the feel of the beginning of an NFL football game using new camera shots of the stadium and authentic player introductions. While this is a great move, the feature can be a little buggy. Once I was watching the Atlanta Falcons introduce Roddy White as the camera stayed on QB Matt Ryan in the tunnel. It is a huge step forward but still way behind the presentation in games like MLB The Show and the NBA 2K series.

There are big improvements to the gameplay that make it stand out. The dynamic player performance and the new CPU A.I. The dynamic player performance is a much welcomed change for long time franchise mode players. Performances during the season will change your players ratings as you go game to game. Not only that but the play style of individual players will change as well. Get a lot of hits in on Jay Cutler and he will start to get get nervous in the pocket. However, a player like Michael Vick can make your life a nightmare because he will take off on you. The defenses are much smarter as they will play closer to a true zone coverage now cutting down on the so called "money" plays.

There is so much more going on in this game. The online play has added "communities" where you can group up with like minded players and won't have to worry as much about people quitting in the middle of the game. The Be A Superstar mode feels mostly unchanged from last years version.

Madden 12 is available on the PS3, Xbox 360,Wii, PSP, and 3DS.

MONARCHS WILL HAVE TO REBUILD AND RELOAD IN 2011

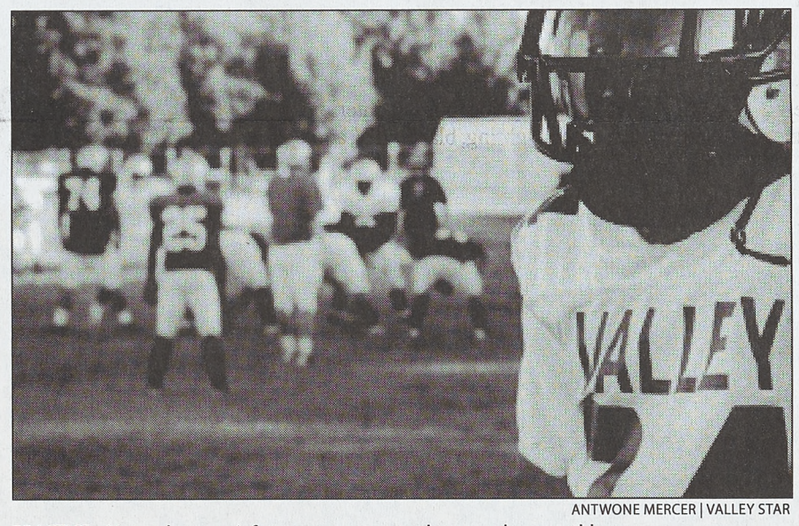
Developing new players will be the theme of the 2011 season.

MATTHEW ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

To overachieve in life is to perform above one's own ability or experience level. This needs to be the mantra for the 2011 Los Angeles Valley College football team. After going 6-4 and placing second in the Pacific Conference in 2010, the Monarchs will be hard pressed to match or better their 2010 season due to graduation and assorted freshmen leaving the program for personal reasons.

Head Coach Jim Fenwick was characteristically succinct when it came to his thoughts on the 2011 team. "It's a very young team, with depth being a problem, and there are so many freshmen." Youth is sprayed all over the 2011 roster, as Valley loses more than a dozen key lettermen from a year ago (eight of whom made All-Pacific Conference). Among those lost lettermen were their best offensive linemen Kasimili Uitalia, their leading rusher Germi Morrison, leading tackler Dimarco Scarber, and Chris Martinez and Jeremy Monegan who led the team in interceptions. Fortunately, the Monarchs on offense have quarterback Dan Owen returning who threw for 1,863 yards last year with a mouth-watering 16 to 3 touchdown to interception ratio. Owen however will be protected by an offensive line which lost 60 percent of its starters from a year, which will include offensive guard Sherron Tillman and possible tight end/ offensive tackle Roberto Melgar. Bottom line for the offense, they must replace seven starters from a year ago which will include developing new running backs and replacing four receivers.

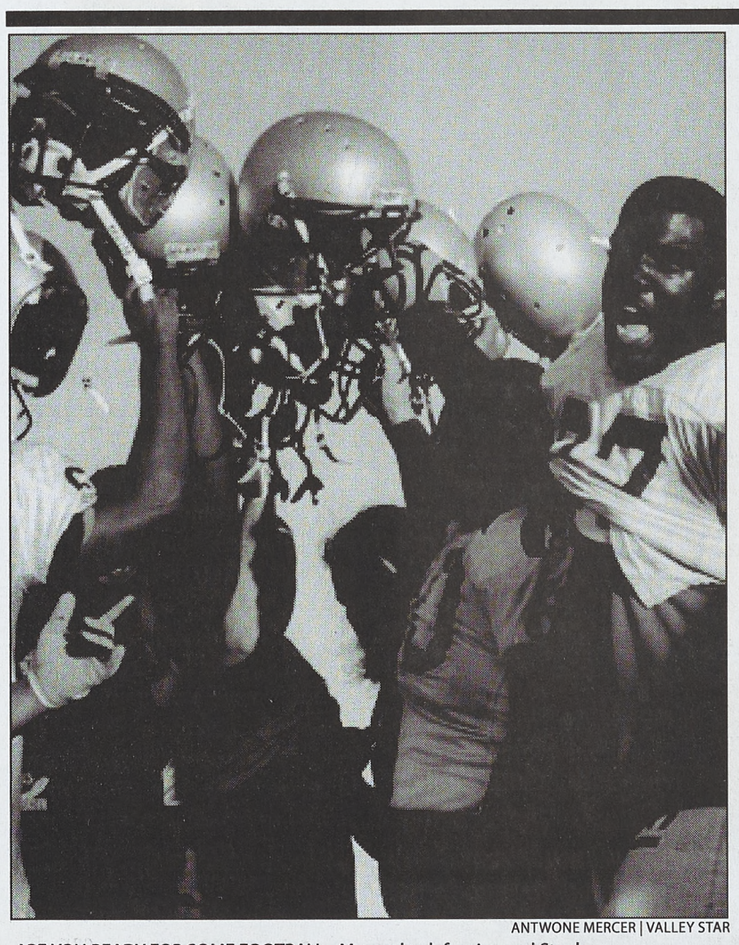
On defense, eight year Defensive Coordinator Leon Criner will have to replace 12 starters from a defense that he called the best in his career at Valley. The 2010 unit ranked 1st or better in many key defensive categories. So, what does he do for an encore? For starters, he only has two returning defenders from last year in linebackers Chuck Obi and James Sparks; plug in nine new players on defense; wait for the development of converted offensive lineman Alex Ayala; and somehow overcome the lack of depth along the defense. A bonus though, is that sophomore defensive lineman Neemia Vitale (ineligible in 2010) returns. He is an athletic and motor driven player who needs to have a solid 2011.



ANTWONE MERCER | VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE - Monarchs prepair for new season new players and new problems.

Bottom line, the Monarchs will have to deal with that common eyesore that affects all community college football teams, which is graduation and freshmen leaving the program early to kick-start their four-year college careers. If Valley doesn't overcome their youth and depth, the 2011 season could get ugly for them.



ANTWONE MERCER | VALLEY STAR

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL - Monarchs defensive end Stanley Monperousse(97) huddles up with the D-line in an after practice prep-rally to come up with the perfect team Chemistry.

GAME STORY

VALLEY AIRS IT OUT IN EAST L.A.

Valley pulls out win despite second half surge by the Huskies.

MATTHEW ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs 47-26 victory over the East Loan Angeles Huskies saturday night was by no means easy. Valley survived a 19-point second half by the Huskies to win their season opener on the road. Valley bludgeoned the Huskies defense with 475 yards total offense, and they needed every single one of those yards to stave off a hungry Huskies team.

Valley opened the lid on the scoring for the night, with a 75 yard punt return for a score by Bradley Bell. Bell looked as if he were going to fall over deep into the return, but he kept his balance and raced the last 43 yards for the score. From there in the first quarter, Valley scored 20 unanswered points including two key Michael Johnson (9 carries for 54 yards and 3 scores on the night). Bell and Johnson's (a bullying 3 yard run) scores were aided by drive killing tackles for loss by right defensive end Lazelle Alston, who may have been the defensive MVP of this game. Valley was shut out in the second quarter but still led 27-7 at halftime.

Huskies running back Marquel Booker had a speedy up the middle 98 yard score in the second half. Valley Defensive Coordinator Leon Criner said this about that run, "That [run] certainly gave them momentum which they had not had up until that time." It certainly did give them momentum as they went on a 13-point rally to scare Valley. But Valley went on a 20-point run of their own to pull out the victory.

Head Coach Jim Fenwick had this to say about Valley's first game, "I am very excited for our team, but I also realize that we have a lot to learn." Valley has the talent to make some noise in the Pacific Conference in 2011, but they need more of a killer instinct as far as protecting leads. Valley will play better teams that East LA but that game was a very stern test.

Meanwhile, Drew Fasolini who films football games for Valley, brought up a vital point about this game, "Clock management was great today." Easily the most important offensive drive of this game was their second to last drive of the game; with 8:47 left in the game, Valley went on a time-consuming/non-scoring five minute and twelve second drive that killed any hopes of a Huskie comeback.

Quarterback Dan Owen received good protection for most of the night as he went 18 of 33 for 287 yards and 3 touchdown passes. It was his 33 yard touchdown pass to wide receiver John Hillinger down the left sideline on the last play of the third quarter, that pretty much put the Huskies away. The passing combo of Owen to Hilliger frustrated the Huskies all night. Owen received help from Harper, Johnson, and Malcolm Thomas in the running game (207 yards on 44 carries and 3 scores).

The offensive MVP of this game was the offensive line: center Roberto Melgar, guards Sherrion Tillman and Erick Miranda, and tackles Abel De Haro and Nicholas Goodreau. Those five linemen enabled the Valley offense to score 6 times, have offensive balance, and Owen was only sacked once which took place late in the game. As for special teams freshman kicker Martin Meza was 6 for 7 on extra points; Bell and Sean Funchess combined for 193 yards and 1 score on punt and kickoff returns; and punter/ wide receiver Christian Robertson punted 3 times for 93 yards.

Next week Valley will be at home versus the College of The Desert Roadrunners at 6:00 PM.

LABOR DAY AT THE L.A. COUNTY FAIR

LAGINA PHILLIPS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The 100-degree heat did not deter thousands of Southern California residents from flocking to the L.A. County Fair during Labor Day weekend to usher in its 89th year.

The fair, hosted at the Pomona Fairplex, featured a Labor Day concert by the Beach Boys and a parade along with its regular attractions.

Ongoing features include more than 600 vendors offering home and garden, craft and cooking expos, as well as musical performances, bull riding, a show featuring a live shark, horse racing, a circus, and just for children, a Kids' Zone featuring a kiddie carnival and science demonstrations.

Visitors also enjoyed the fair's carnival, which includes more than 70 rides and 40 games, and feasted on fair fare from strawberry bleu cheese salad to deep-fried Kool-Aid and maple bacon doughnuts.

The fair runs Wednesday to Sunday through Oct. 2.

SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

HANGING OUT-A lone passenger on the skyride admires the fairgrounds from above.

SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

ROUND AND ROUND-The LA Fair's150ft. ferriswheel named "La Grande Wheel" is America's largest transportable giant wheel.

SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

PULLING MY LEG -Natyna Vidato of Diamond Bar is enjoying a turkey leg. one of the popular food item of the fair

SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

AT THE FAIR-The Pomona Fairplex provides fair-goers with more than 70 rides and 40 different games.

SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

CORNHOLIO-An employee of Totally Fried, one of dozens of food vendors at the fair, grills husks of corn.